
Contents

Chapter 1: City planning principles

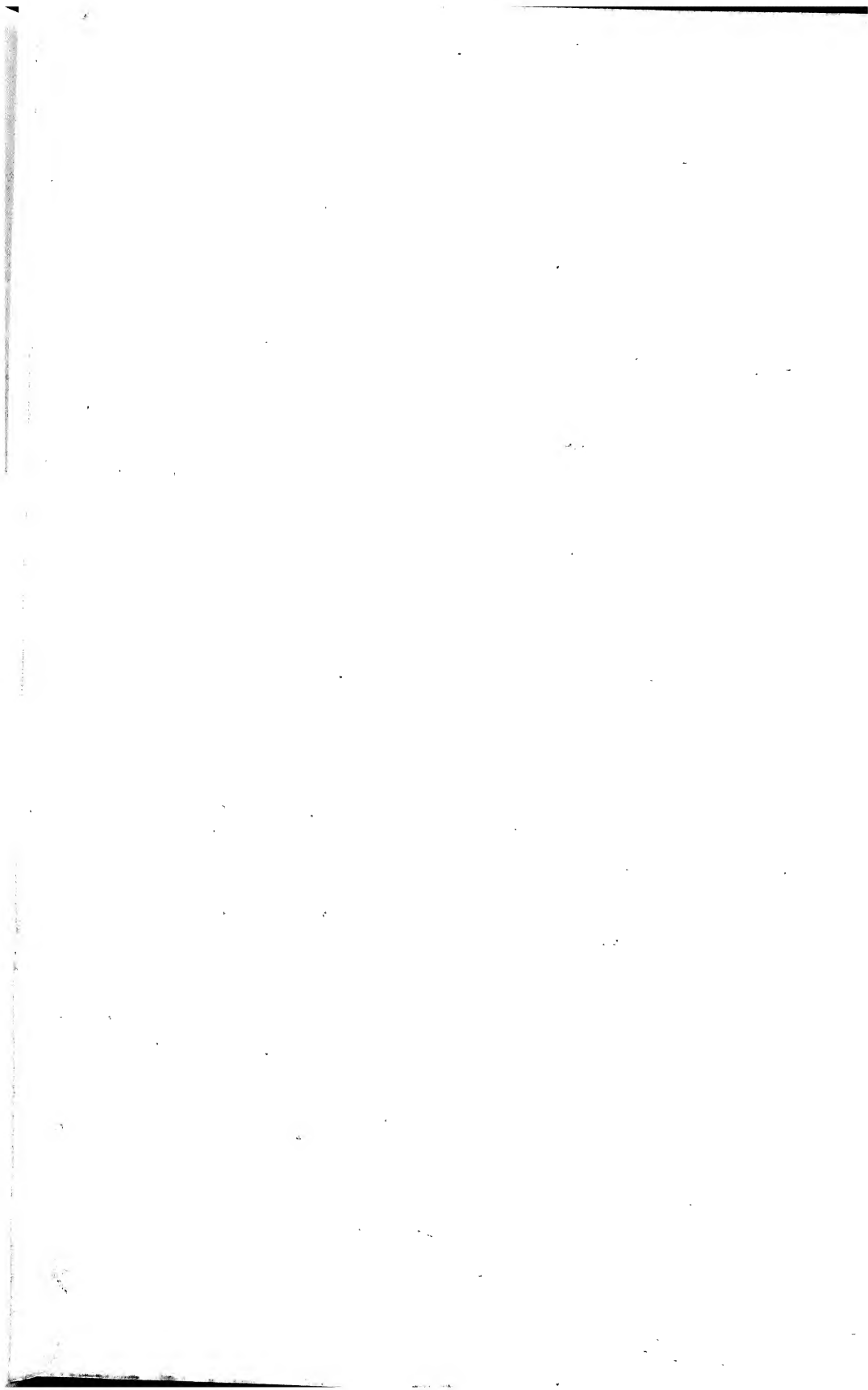
- Planning ahead 3
- City planning: what it should be and do 18
- Future town forms: a matter of choice 22
- Obstacles in planning: summary and conclusions 33
- Planning archaeology: a new science rises 35 ✓
- Planning, the people, and the strength of nations 39
- Prologue to the future 41 ✓
- Democracy is threatening the American way of life 43
- City planners: what they should be and do 47
- “Planners should have to run for office . . .” 54
- Defining planning and other more important things 56
- The naked and dangerous men 62
- Planning the gross society 64
- Improving community planning: some suggestions
to the Chamber of Commerce 68
- Hold up on all that planning jazz 74
- Who needs research? 76
- “ . . . and a little child shall lead them” 83

Chapter 2: Planning and the general welfare

- Comprehensive planning, zoning, and the welfare of metropolis 89



Planning cities



Planning Cities

*Selected writings
on principles
and practice
by
Frederick H. Bair, Jr.
edited by
Virginia Curtis*

*American Society
of Planning Officials
Chicago*

Copyright © 1970 by the American Society of Planning Officials

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the American Society of Planning Officials.

*For information address:
American Society of Planning Officials
1313 East Sixtieth Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637*

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 76-140949

SBN 0-910112-00-2

First Printing

711.4
P103
P103

to Dennis O'Harrow
1908-1967

N 674

HUNT LIBRARY
CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY

Editor's foreword

One of Fred Bair's favorite exhortations is "Let's quit talking about it and start doing something *productive*." Over the years Fred *has* done many productive things—mayors, planning directors, planning staffs, and commissioners in cities all over the United States will attest to that. Over the years Fred has also done a lot of talking and writing about planning and related matters. For 17 years he was editor (and writer, proofreader, typist, and business manager) of *Florida Planning and Development*. He has given countless speeches, seminars, short courses, and diatribes to his fellow professionals, students, Chambers of Commerce, and anyone else willing to listen. All those articles, speeches, seminars, short courses, and diatribes were turned over to me for editing. At first I was very flattered; next I was very frustrated; then I was very tired; and now I am very relieved and extremely proud that we have come up with this book of his writings over the past several years.

It is a good book, I think, selective and representative of the things Fred has been thinking and writing about planning, what it should be, how it works, and how to do it in both large and small cities. He has been fairly consistent (stubborn, some would say) in what he has had to say. In 1960 Fred was pushing for techniques and ideas that are only now beginning to be talked about and accepted nationally. And in 1970 Fred is still writing and talking about things that some younger planners, academicians, and faddists have dismissed as simplistic. But to the vast majority of practicing planners—those out on the front lines

doing planning every day and facing difficult problems—Fred Bair is an Olympian. He writes to them and for them, and what he has to say helps them in their work.

The book ranges from the abstract (principles and policies) to the concrete (how to draft a minor street plan), but all of it grows from experience on action fronts in planning, and it is meant to meet the needs of those who are where the action is—members of planning and zoning staffs and commissioners, members of boards of adjustment, elected and appointed public officials, and citizens interested in planning and related fields.

Most of the articles in this collection first appeared in *Florida Planning and Development* in the years 1960 to 1968. A few were originally published as ASPO Planning Advisory Service Reports. The rest have appeared (or been suppressed) in other publications, proceedings, etc., and are acknowledged where they appear in this book. I have attempted to fit together pieces which for the most part stood by themselves when first written. The book is intended for use as a planning reader and as a reference work on specific problems.

Fred continues to write, but we couldn't wait for him to finish writing everything he has to say about planning. We wanted to get on with *production*.

Virginia Curtis
August 1970